

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News August 19, 2008

Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension

(802) 257-7967 ext.13, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu

www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry

Reports from the Field

(Woodbury) The sun has gone a long way to making me feel better. I am excited about the prospect of killing some weeds again. The fruit count on our winter squash is really low. Except for my Walla Walla's, onions are bulbing up and are looking pretty good. Having tried Mustang and Cortland and being happy with strength of tops, I am dropping Copra next year. Will mow potato tops with the forecast of a good sunny stretch for this upcoming week. I want them in the barn and out of the field. Sales continue to be strong, and I grateful for the support of a loyal customer base.

(Plainfield NH) There is an old saying that goes "I cried because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet" and I guess is how I feel about this summer. So many times we have dodged the bullet (hail, high winds and microbursts) that have gotten others in our area, most recently on 8/16, so I am beginning to feel pretty lucky. The prolonged moisture damaged the strawberry crop and all but wiped out summer brambles. We have battled hornworms, Septoria, Alternaria and Botrytis to name a few as well as seeing a couple of uglies never seen before on our farm: Sclerotinia showed up in one of the tomato greenhouses and Phytophthora showed up in the peppers (and in well drained soils on a raised bed at that). Earworm showed up in the early blocks of corn (not in high numbers, but we found it in some ears) earlier than we have ever seen it; we normally -late July. Pulled a fair crop of onions last week, the galinsoga was coming on strong and the purple blotch had pretty well stopped any more growth. Blueberry crop was huge and now we are beginning to pick the fall raspberries. Starting to tuck in the fall cover crops. A planting of lettuce and cabbage yet to put out. Cool weather slowing maturation of later corn crops. Weather pattern seems to be improving and so are the dispositions of the folks who have lived in rain gear all summer.

(Rochester) Floods in the White River valley caused extensive damage around us, but spared our berry farm. But the wet weather promoted another round of mold for the last good week of our raspberry crop, and also kept the you-pickers away. The raspberry yield is down 30% compared to last year even though the crop was at least as good. But the blueberries are spectacularly abundant, and our 5 year-old blackberries are showing plenty of fruit (for the first time) which should be ripe by LBT/70 0 1 90.024 182.42 Tm[ple80dekw7u2 0 nd

(Killington) Tomatoes, tomatoes....lots of them and they taste great. We grow Jet Star and Beef Steak in the hoop house.